

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT

Kindly replace the abstract with the enclosed substitute abstract.

Please amend paragraph [0004] on page 1 as follows:

[0004] In such a known chain tensioner, if the engine is stopped with the slack side of the chain tensioned according to the positions of the cams when the engine is stopped, the plunger is sometimes pushed in by the chain and retracts excessively while the engine is at a stop. When the engine is restarted in this state, the chain will significantly slacken, causing the plunger to protrude excessively outwardly. Because the engine has just started, a hydraulic pump cannot sufficiently quickly supply hydraulic oil into the pressure chamber through the oil supply passage, so that air may remain in the pressure chamber. This impairs the damping properties of the tensioner, thus and sometimes producing produces noise.

Please amend paragraph [0009] on page 3 as follows:

[0009] An object of this invention is to provide a chain tensioner which includes means for completely preventing separation of the plunger.

MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECT**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please amend paragraph [0020] on page 7 as follows:

[0020]

11 Housing

12 Cylinder chamber

13 Plunger

15 Spring

- 16 Pressure chamber
- 17 Oil supply passage
- 20 Retraction restrictor mechanism
- 30 Ring fitting groove
- 31 Elastic ring
- 32 Engaging groove
- 32a Tapered surface
- 40 Ring fitting groove
- 41 Engaging groove
- 41a Tapered surface

BEST MODE FOR EMBODYING DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend paragraph [0049] on page 14 as follows:

[0049]

With this arrangement, if the engine stops with the chain 5 tensioned according to the positions of the cams when the engine stops, static pushing force is applied to the plunger 13 from the chain 5 through the chain guide 6. Such static pushing ~~forced~~force is borne by the pressure flanks 29a of the internal and external threads 24 and 26, which are in contact with each other. This prevents the plunger 13 from retracting while turning, thus keeping the chain 5 tensioned.

Please amend paragraph [0054] on page 16 as follows:

[0054]

~~But instead~~Instead of the tapered surface 41a, the engaging groove 41 may have a flat surface perpendicular to the central axis of the plunger 13 on its side near the front end of the plunger. Such an engaging groove 41 has a depth less than half the diameter of the linear member forming the elastic ring 31. In this arrangement, the elastic ring 31 is radially expanded by the outer edge of the flat surface of the engaging groove 41.